GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:516
ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008
EXPLORATION OF DIAMOND AND GOLD
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is laying special emphasis on extraction/ exploration of diamond and gold so as to reduce its import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of diamond and gold imported into and produced in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, mineral-wise;

(d) the number of employees working in the Panna diamond and Gold mine in 2008; and

(e) the number of employees granted voluntary scheme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a)&(b): Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. The Central Government has enunciated the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 which envisages streamlining and simplifying the procedures in grant of mineral concessions in order to attract investment into mining sector.

(c) : As per available information, data on import of diamond and gold from the year 2004-05 to 2006-07 are given below:

Super Group Commodity Name & Unit	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (P)
Commodity Name			
Diamond Diamond (Industrial) (Carat)	14705	12244	4503
Diamond(Mostly cut) (Carat)	138786704	124743440	119625535
Diamond Powder (Thousand Carat)	27372	47795	56848
Gold KG	782864	723780	725817

State wise production of gold is given below:

State	2005-06 (Revised)	2006-07 (Provisional)	2007-08 (Provisional)	2008-09 (upto August)
	(in Tonnes)			
Karnataka	2.846	2.334	2.831	1.162
Jharkhand	0.201	0.154	0.027	0.008
Gujarat	6.710	10.335	9.135	2.571
(as by product)				
Total	9.757	12.823	11.993	3.741

Production of diamond was limited to one State and details are given below

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09(upto September)
	(in carats)			

(provisional) (provisional)

Madhya Pradesh 44170 2179 586 367

(d) & (e): As per available information, 251 employees are working in Panna diamond mine and no employee was granted voluntary retirement scheme in 2008.